

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) A filter cartridge for filtering a slurry composition which comprises

a hollow housing having a first end including an inlet and a second end including an outlet, said hollow housing being filled with a depth filter and being free of an open void volume upstream of said depth filter.
2. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 1 wherein said depth filter is formed of segments separated by annular spacers.
3. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 2 wherein said depth filter segments comprise a wound depth filter comprising nonwoven fibers.
4. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 2 wherein said depth filter segments comprise a stack of sheets wherein each sheet comprises nonwoven fibers.
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5. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 2 wherein said depth filter segments comprise a fibrous mass of nonwoven polymeric fibers secured together by mechanical entanglement of the fibers.
6. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of anyone of claims 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the ratio of depth filter segment thickness to spacer thickness is from about 1.1:1 to about 5:1.
7. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 6 wherein the ratio of depth filter segment thickness to spacer thickness is from about 1.5 to about 3:1.
8. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of any one of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the housing is free of an open void volume downstream of said depth filter.
9. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of any one of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the depth filter inserted into the housing is precompressed into its final length.

10. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of any one of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein further comprising end caps secured to the ends of the by a mechanical device.

11. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 10 wherein the inner walls of the housing adjacent the ends of the housing have one or more slots formed therein, the end caps contain one or more C-rings and the C-rings secure the end caps to the housing by fitting at least partially into the one or more slots of the housing.

12. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 10 wherein the outer walls of the housing adjacent the ends of the housing have a flange formed thereon and the end caps are secured to the flange by a C-ring.

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13. (Currently Amended) The filter cartridge of claim 11 wherein the end caps are formed of two or more pieces known as the inner end cap piece and outer end cap piece and at least the inner end cap piece is secured by said to said housing.

14. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of Claim 13 wherein the outer end cap is secured to the inner cap piece.

15. (Previously Amended) The filter cartridge of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein the media has a surface treatment selected from the group consisting of hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity or a positive or negative charge.

16. (Previously Amended) A process for filtering a slurry which comprises

passing a slurry through a filter cartridge as defined in any one of Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12 or 13, and

recovering a filtered slurry from said cartridge.

17. (Original) The process of Claim 16 wherein said slurry is selected from the group consisting of a silica-based slurry, and alumina-based slurry, a ceria-based slurry, a diamond-based slurry, a MnO₂-based slurry, a cell broth, a

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photoresist chemical, a fermentation liquid, blood, a blood fraction and a transgenic liquid.

18. (Original) The process of Claim 16 wherein said slurry is transgenic milk.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (New) The filter cartridge of Claim 12 wherein the end caps are formed of two or more pieces known as the inner end cap piece and outer end cap piece and at least the inner end cap piece is secured by said to said housing.

26. (New) A process for filtering a slurry which comprises passing a slurry through a filter cartridge as defined in Claim 11, and recovering a filtered slurry from said cartridge.

27. (New) A process for filtering a slurry which comprises passing a slurry through a filter cartridge as defined in Claim 12, 3, and recovering a filtered slurry from said cartridge.